



**Watertown City Council
Committee on Human Services**

Councilor Palomba-Chair, Councilor Bays-Vice Chair, Councilor Izzo- Secretary

**Committee Report of June 23, 2026 Meeting
Presented to the City Council on July 14, 2026**

The Committee on Human Services convened on Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 PM in the City Council office. Present were Councilor Anthony Palomba, Chair, Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair, and Councilor Emily Izzo, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for the Council on Aging.

Phyllis Perrone- The Committee interviewed Phyllis Perrone for appointment as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Ms. Perrone is a frequent user of the Watertown Senior Center and expressed strong interest in expanding programming and opportunities for seniors. She has visited other senior centers to gather ideas and noted that Watertown's center offers many strong programs. She is particularly interested in increasing male participation through targeted programs (e.g., a men's group) and exploring models like Belmont's focus on transportation, social services, and meals rather than trips.

As a former teacher with a background in the humanities, she emphasized the importance of intergenerational interaction and programming that serves the full range of seniors (60+). She highlighted the need to better engage younger seniors, who may be more computer-literate, and suggested using focus groups for input. She also shared thoughts on the new senior center, envisioning it as "a center for active living" with a gym, activities, ample parking, and classes.

Councilor Bays made the following motion:

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council appoint Phyllis Perrone as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Council Izzo and passed 3-0.

Ryan Nicholson- The Committee interviewed Ryan Nicholson for reappointment as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Mr. Nicholson (appearing as a resident, not in his capacity as Fire Chief) discussed his positive experience on the Council, including collaboration with the Fire Department, planning events, and building connections in the senior community. He expressed excitement about the new senior center planning process and the opportunity to

incorporate senior feedback on location, size, parking, and accessibility. He noted the importance of exploring serving both elder seniors and attracting younger seniors.

Councilor Bays made the following motion:

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council reappoint Ryan Nicholson as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Council Izzo and passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM. Report prepared by Councilor Izzo.